



## Great Bardfield Town Hall

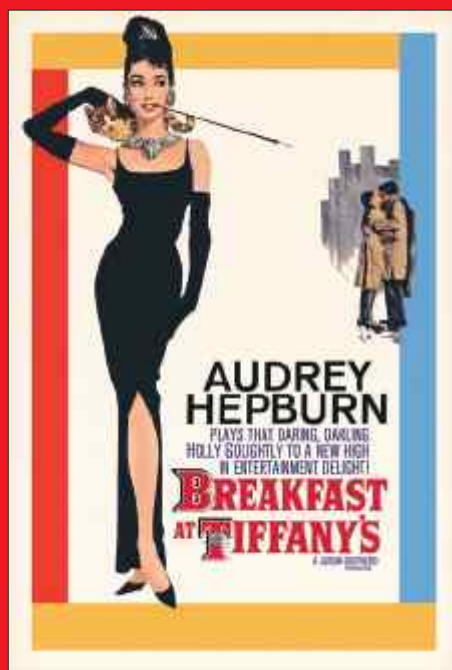
Doors Open 7.30pm Film Starts 8.00pm

Members free, Non members £7



**Friday,  
December 8<sup>th</sup>  
The Electrical Life  
of Louis Wain**

**Friday,  
January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Breakfast at  
Tiffany's**



Dec  
2023



50p  
where  
sold

News and views from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield

# Bardfield Times



Ten editions of Bardfield Times are published each year by volunteers from Great Bardfield and Little Bardfield parishes. Articles, letters, etc. for inclusion need to be received by the editors by the **14<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication**. The management team reserve the right to refuse, postpone or to edit any material received for publication. Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the management team.

**Editor:** Janet Dyson drjanetdyson@gmail.com

**Layout designer:** Joe Jones joe311jones@btinternet.com  
07946495148

**Hand written letters  
or articles for typing:** Alicia Holmes  
Bunbury, Bridge Street, CM7 4SY

**Advertising:** advertising@bardfieldtimes.com  
Kate Fox 01371 810111

**Distribution:** distribution@bardfieldtimes.com  
Ray Coles 07470992224  
& Paul Euesden 01371 810118

**Treasurer:** treasurer@bardfieldtimes.com  
Jackie Newton 01371 810586

**Announcements:** nicolapascoe.announcements@gmail.com  
01371 811640



**Front cover:** Remembrance service by Paul Kennedy

**Above:** Year 6 laying their poppy wreath Great Bardfield Primary School

## Editorial

**G**oodwill and community spirit have shone a light over our community again.

Danny and team Co-Op, we have missed you greatly. But Stuart and the Spencers and kind neighbourly gestures steered us quickly into optimism after the temporary Co-Op closure, as supplies of dairy produce and bread, and good wine and fruit and veg boxes, amongst many other 'must have' items became an unending supply again and within walking distance. Thanks to everyone who helped us through those (not so gritty after all) weeks, and we herald the re-opening of our 'New Look' village store.

As our beautiful, American Oak tree on Vine Street Green, resplendent over the autumn weeks with its golden leaves has now fully shed, December and Christmas celebrations approach. With the light continuing to shine, preparations are already underway for Christmas hamper distribution (contact Jo Magro -Andrews) and calls to be in touch with Brenda Poston, (01371 810519) if you, or anyone you know will be alone or unable to cook, and would like to have a full Christmas lunch delivered on the day.

As in all communities, some residents - your neighbours - will not be looking forward to Christmas. Those bereaved or ill, those struggling with the high costs of living, those lonely, without family or friends - just a knock on the door and a chat can make all the difference.

This year, on Monday December 11<sup>th</sup>, for the first time in two years, the Village Carol concert will take place again in the Town Hall. Everyone is invited to an evening of Carol singing and readings, led by the Bardfield Brass and the Community Choir, with mulled wine and mince pies to enjoy afterwards - a perfect evening to kindle Christmas spirit. Other Christmas activities include a combined churches Carol Service at St Mary's Church and Carol singing with the community choir and Bardfield Brass at the Bell Pub - see inside for details.

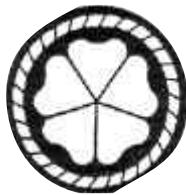
This is a combined edition (December-January 2024) of the *Bardfield Times*, with the next edition following in February '24. And as the year closes, the team wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. We send good luck wishes to all our villagers, young and old, starting new ventures in the coming year, particularly the Bookshop, as they open their new doors on the High Street - once again offering Conversation, Coffee and Cake and of course Books!

**Pat Coles**



## Great Bardfield Primary School

It is hard to believe that we are already heading toward the end of the Autumn Term at Great Bardfield Primary School. All of the signs that Christmas is on the way can be seen and heard in and around school; children in corners rehearsing lines for the Nativity; discussions in the kitchen about the Christmas lunch menu and the sound of Christmas carols being taught by our wonderful music teachers.



This year at school we will be kicking off our Christmas programme of events with a trip to the Town Hall on 1<sup>st</sup> December to watch the Pantomime. We are so grateful to our PTA for arranging this annual event which is thoroughly enjoyed by both children and staff. It is lovely to be able to use local facilities and for the children to be able to walk up through the village to this activity.

Other events in the run up to Christmas include our Nativity production, the Key Stage Two Carol Service at St Mary's, Christmas lunch, our annual Christmas market where children shop 'til they drop and a special Santa's Grotto organised by our wonderful PTA. Christmas really is a busy but very special time here at school.

This month, we have been raising money for the charity Children in Need by wearing 'Spots and Stripes' and for the Royal British Legion by selling various 'poppy paraphernalia' in school. A great cause closer to home has been fundraising for our Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight. We have an unusually small group of Year 6 children this year, making the cost of the visit per head rather more than in previous years, so in a demonstration of resourcefulness, the children have suggested some fundraising activities. The first has been a cake sale which raised a huge £80 towards their trip.

Last week in recognition of Remembrance Day, some of our children, along with pupils from other local schools exhibited some beautiful artwork at St John the Baptist Church in Finchingfield. Our children submitted paintings which represented the theme of 'Life in the 20th Century' based on their studies earlier in the term on 'The Great Bardfield Artists'. The display looked very professional and we definitely have some 'Bardfield Artists' of the future at school. As is tradition at our school, every child made a poppy containing a message of hope to be attached to the fence and Ravilious Class laid a wreath at the war memorial in the village. I was very proud of the respect and thoughtfulness shown by our Year 6 children.



*Art Exhibition in Finchingfield*



*Our 'Poppys of Hope'*

All of these events, in addition to the daily teaching and learning, would not happen without the hard work and dedication of my amazing team of staff. Teachers, Learning Support Assistants and a key team of support staff work together to maintain the smooth running of our school. Every member of 'Team GB' goes above and beyond every single day to ensure our children receive the very best education and experiences and I am so very grateful for them all.

**Liz Crow**  
**Headteacher**

# Celebration

BETWEEN THE LINES BOOKSHOP



Invites all our friends and supporters to celebrate our move to new premises in the Old Post Office, High Street on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 4pm.



Great Bardfield Primary School  
invites you to share...

## 'Carols & Mince Pies'

We would like to invite senior members of our community to a celebration of Christmas followed by mince pies in the school hall on

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**1.30pm**

Please ring or email the school office to confirm your seat.

Tel: 01371 810252

Email: [admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@greatbardfield.essex.sch.uk)



## **Hello again my gentle and very generous readers!,**

First of all, a very big thank you to all the people who responded so positively to my article in last months edition of the *Bardfield Times*. Kate Fox, our Parish Clerk, was able to report at the November PC meeting on the generous donations received so far. As a result of which we are in a position to continue to move closer to finishing the interior of the new pavilion the village can be proud of, although of course, there is still much to do!

The next project is to install and complete the fitting of all the plumbing for the two changing rooms and toilets, the referee's facility, and the beverage area. We have budgeted for this and we are in the process of selecting the contractor from quotes supplied.

I think you know what is coming next, and yes you are right, we're asking you, the wonderful and generous villagers of Bardfield to once again put their hands in their pockets again for the all important finishing touches and make a donation to the pavilion fund, no amount is too small (or too large!) and should be made to the Parish Clerk

If you would prefer to help with equipment, we are looking for such items as a microwave, an under the counter fridge etc, contact Kate if you can help in any way.

It only remains for me to say thanks once again and a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all, and I look forward to welcoming you to the new pavilion hopefully sometime in the spring.

**Iain Graham on behalf of The Pavilion Commitee.**



*The end of the old Pavilion*

## **FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCHES**

Once again, I am hoping to provide Christmas Day lunch to anyone who is alone and can't cook for themselves. I am hoping that villagers will once again help by providing ingredients. If you can, please let me know.

### **This is the list:**

- Stuffing
- Potatoes
- Petit Pois
- Baby Sprouts
- Carrots
- Chipolata sausages/Pigs in Blankets
- Mince pies
- Christmas Puddings
- Fresh custard
- Small bottles of wine

I also hope to provide a tea for Christmas Day/Boxing Day and need the following:

- Small pork pies
- Sausage Rolls
- Small quiche
- Gift bags
- Toiletries
- Chocolates

**Brenda Turner 01371 810519**

## **CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

### **Hello neighbour,**

Do you know anyone within Great and Little Bardfield who will (or will you yourself), be alone this Christmas and would appreciate a Christmas Hamper? If so, please could you contact me with their name and telephone number so that we can contact them and offer them one.

As people's circumstances can change, if you have received a hamper in previous years and would like another this year you will also need to contact me to confirm this.

Please call Joanne Magro-Andrews on 07590397178 by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

Best wishes,

**Joanne Magro-Andrews**

## Great Bardfield Parish Council report

### Firework Night

Firework night was very well received and was a super evening. Despite the weather in the week leading up to the event there was no rain that night, though the ground was very muddy. It was so good to see this established village event back in the calendar and organised so well by Jess Walmsley, Bardfield School PTA, the Rocketeers and the rest of the team. Many thanks to all those involved. After costs, almost £2000 was raised and split between the PTA, Pavilion Fund, Great Bardfield Pre-School and Little Bardfield Cricket Club. Already looking forward to next year.

### New Pavilion

We thank those that have donated generously to the Pavilion Fund, following a request in recent editions of the *Bardfield Times*. We still need some funds to complete this project. If you are able to donate, please contact the Parish Clerk, Kate Fox at clerk@greatbardfield-pc-gov.uk

### Planning Applications

- Little Lodge, Braintree Road – replacement of roof tiles. No objections providing the Historic Buildings Officer is satisfied with the materials to be used.
- Keepers, Braintree Road – single storey extension and conversion of garage to residential. The Parish Council were concerned about the loss of off-street parking on this busy road, and the lack of clear plans of the elevations of the property which is in the Conservation area.

### Update - Planning Appeal – 56 Houses on Braintree Road

The appeal hearing took place on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and we await the Inspector's decision. The Parish Council were represented by Geoff Gardner of Gardner Planning, an experienced planning consultant. Our thanks go to him for the work he has put in and access to his expertise. Also speaking on behalf of the village, in opposition to this development, were a member of the Parish Council, the Historical Society and residents of Deer Park View.

### Community Garden

Do you like gardening or want to learn? Can you make a bug hotel or birdbox? Do you not have space for growing your own veg and would like

to create a community veg plot?

As mentioned in the last edition of the *Bardfield Times* the Parish Council have been awarded a grant to develop a Community Garden at the Quiet Space, behind the Town Hall. We are keen for residents to get involved in planning, preparing and planting so please do put your name forward if you can help in any way. Contact the Parish Clerk, Kate Fox at clerk@greatbardfield-pc-gov.uk or by phone on 810111.

### Highways/Pavements

We are chasing Essex County Council Highways department once more for some attention to the dangerous pavements within the village and potholes on approach roads, including the particularly bad ones on the exit towards Finchingfield at Bridge End and those in Great Saling which have been neglected for some time.

### Next Parish Council Meetings

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.00pm, in the Committee Room at the Town Hall. Members of the Public are welcome to attend and to raise any issues at the Public Forum which is held at the beginning of the meeting.

Advance notice that the January meeting will be held at the same place and starting time on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

**Merry Christmas and A Happy 2024 from all on the Parish Council**  
**Carolynne Ruffle, Chairperson**

## OLD BATTERIES

Don't forget you can deposit old domestic batteries  
 in the special box in the CIP  
 (open Thursday and Saturday 10am to 12 noon).

You might come across a few when you dig out the  
 Christmas decorations and ornaments - and before  
 you put them back in the loft in January!

**Parish Clerk**



## Review: The Bardfield Players

The Town Hall was full every night for the Bardfield Players' performance of *Being of Sound Mind* by Andrew Hull. This murder mystery, produced and directed by Ian Ruffle, featured some familiar faces and also some newcomers to the team. In the opening scene four people have been gathered together in a remote country house to hear the reading of the will of the late Edward Goodchild by James Brunt, solicitor (Steve Hudspeth). All have different reasons for being there. Brother and sister Penny and Stephen, played with relaxed confidence by Emily Robshaw and Sven Steinbauer, are hoping for cash. Erstwhile glamorous film star Rebecca Lockhart played by Marcia Bryan with elegance and a fine sense of melodrama, desperately wants to know the truth about her sister's death. Martine (Sheree Riley) is clearly puzzled, having no idea why she is there. However, the solicitor reveals that to get a single penny they must first survive a night in the house. What could possibly go wrong?

There were some strong character portrayals notably by newcomer to the Players Mike Brown who brought an appropriate sense of gravitas to the role of Marshall, the butler, but also showed his potential for tackling more serious roles. An intense scene where Marshall engages



*Rebecca Lockhart (Marcia Bryan) and Penny (Emily Robshaw) discuss their troubled family history.*

in a deep discussion with Martine (Sheree Riley) showed the ability of both actors to sustain the attention of the audience. Another new member, Sally Beanland, brought an underlying sense of sinister intent to the apparently meek and subservient role of Susan, the house maid, conveyed well through body language and facial

*Marshall the butler (Mike Brown) enlightens Martine.*



*Stage Crew discreetly remove a body.*

expressions. There were plenty of surprises and ghostly manifestations as the night unfolded and by morning the cast was significantly diminished! Suffice it to say that Susan the house maid was not at all what she seemed!

The production team, backstage crew and set builders, as ever provided sterling support. It's good to see the Players successfully adding to their already strong team.

### **'Phoenix'**



*A ghostly figure looms, knife in hand!*

## **The Tuesday Club**

**O**n November 14<sup>th</sup> Will Edwards gave us an entertaining and informative talk on The History of the Christmas Pudding. So many different recipes, the earlier ones contained beef alongside the dried fruit and beer, whereas nowadays the only beef we might include in the pudding is the suet, and even that is often the vegetarian version of suet, made from palm oil. Apparently, the ideal recipe should contain thirteen ingredients, for Jesus and the twelve apostles. Get your favourite recipe out and start counting. Puddings should be made on the last Sunday before Advent, which I calculate as 26<sup>th</sup> November this year, so by the time you read this you will probably be too late, in which case you can buy pretty good ones all ready made. But if you do make one next year, remember they must always be stirred East to West, something to do with the Three Wise Men perhaps? Whether home-made or shop-bought, enjoy!

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch in December, where we shall be enjoying a traditional roast turkey dinner, followed by (guess what) Christmas pudding!

At our meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January we shall be holding our AGM and look forward to greeting someone from the Creamer Fund, our charity for 2023, who will tell us a little more about the Fund and be presented with a cheque from the Club.

We meet in the Town Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 2.00 and talk starts at 2.30. We do hope you might like to come along and join us, everyone is welcome, non-members pay £5 including refreshments, and if you decide to become a member you will only pay £25.00 for the whole year.

Hoping to see you in 2024, and meanwhile wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

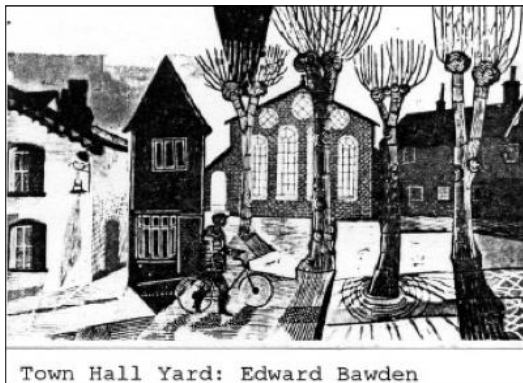
**Cherry Whitby**

**For more details please contact the Club Secretary,  
Marilyn Edwards on 01371 810555**



## Town Hall Happenings

The projector and electric screen mentioned in last month's 'Town Hall Happenings' has now been installed in the Town Hall, and will be used for the first time by the Cinema Club on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Anyone wishing to use the electric screen and projector at their event should contact Sarah Hymas, the Town Hall's Caretaker, at bardfieldtownbookings@gmail.com.



Town Hall Yard: Edward Bawden

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Christmas tree will soon be going up outside the Town Hall, and the Town Hall Carol Service with Bardfield Community Choir and Bardfield Brass will be taking place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm followed by mulled wine and mince pies to put everyone in the festive spirit. This year, for the first time since Covid, the concert will take place INSIDE the Town Hall rather than around the village and outside on the forecourt. Come along and join in the Carols!

On behalf of the Town Hall Management Committee, may I wish everyone in Great Bardfield a very Merry Christmas!

**Patricia Walsh**

**Treasurer, Great Bardfield Town Hall**

## MOBILE LIBRARY BUS

MOBILE LIBRARY BUS VISITS GREAT BARDFIELD  
ON THE FOLLOWING DATES

**7 December & 28 December**

**Between 11.55am and 12.25pm**

If there is no room at the Town Hall to park  
the bus will be located further along Dunmow Road



## TOWN HALL CAROL CONCERT

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Doors Open 6.30 pm Concert Starts 7.00 pm**

*With*

**Bardfield Community Choir**

**&**

**Bardfield Brass**

**Mulled Wine & Mince Pies**

**All Welcome, Limited Seating**



## Horticultural Society

**T**hank you to everyone who attended our AGM and talk in October. We had nearly 50 members and friends. The main business of the AGM ran smoothly and it was followed by plates of various cheeses and biscuits with a choice of wine or fruit juice.

We had a very enthusiastic talk on "Rewilding" by Alex Stevenson. She told us about developing their farm land to be a natural habitat for all wildlife. The raffle was well supported and memberships were renewed.

Next date for your diary **Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
Floral Art morning in Quaker Meeting House 10 until 12.30.  
The theme is '**A Candlelit Christmas**'.

All materials supplied.  
Refreshments and raffle for £15.00 per person  
Numbers are limited so please let us know if you would like to  
join us at this fun morning a.s.a.p. by contacting  
**Linda Prior 01371 811641 for a ticket.**

Our first meeting for your new 2024 diary is Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm in the Town Hall. Our speaker will be Lucy Skellorn. Title of talk "Revival of a Garden and Plant Collections"

Lucy holds the National Collection of Irises introduced by her great, great grandfather Sir Michael Foster, known as the father of iris breeding. Her interest was sparked when she was training to be a gardener and discovered the work of her illustrious ancestor.

Lucy has made it her mission to find as many of Foster's irises as possible, her journey has led her to the Chelsea Flower Show and work with the Garden Museum.

She trained in fine art and is now a researcher at Benton End House and Garden Trust, the home of the late artist and plantsman Cedric Morris, who developed a range of irises commemorated in his paintings. Cedric's garden was a collector's cabinet of rare and unusual plants, revered by botanists and known to the iris fraternity for the 90 cultivars of bearded irises that he bred, many of which carry the Benton prefix.

Hear about the history of the garden during Cedric's time and how it

inspired artists and gardeners alike, going on to have a profound effect on 20th-century horticulture.

The Garden Museum recently acquired the house and its grounds, intent on turning it back into a place of study once more. Learn more about the history and future plans for this exciting project in Lucy's talk.

Tickets for the talk will be £8 each (for members) and £10 for non-members - this will include tea, coffee and homemade cakes. There will be a lucky ticket draw and raffle.

Tickets are available from Linda Prior 811641 and Lynne Joyce 810524. You can also renew your membership at this meeting.

### Benefits of being a member

Bardfield Horticultural Society are a group of local people who enjoy our gardens and swapping ideas with others with a common interest.

We have themed talks, two shows a year, several garden visits, suppers and other social events throughout the year.

The yearly subscription of £5.00 pp has the benefits of reduced prices to our events.

Our AGM includes a speaker with cheese and wine and is also free to members.

We encourage everyone with any size garden from several acres to a window box and are always ready with advice if needed.

We invite anyone from complete novices to more experienced gardeners to join us. There is always something new we can learn from each other!

We would like to wish all our members an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas with Best Wishes for 2024.

**For any information about the Society please contact  
Linda Prior 01371 811641**

BARDFIELD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY  
**Thursday 7 December 2023**  
**FLORAL ART MORNING**  
**A CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS**

Friends Meeting House  
 Gt Bardfield at 10 am

Prepare a table decoration after having a demonstration by Mandy Boon. You will learn how to make and display some flowers to be centre stage at Christmas. All materials are provided so just bring sharp scissors and willingness to learn. We will serve some refreshments and have a raffle so do come along and bring a friend or two. Tickets are £15.00 each. Limited places so buy your ticket now. CALL Linda 01371 811641



## GREENFINGERS

This is the December issue that lasts till the 1<sup>st</sup> February so 8 weeks of gardening to write about for the bleakest weeks, quite a challenge. Methinks of the pleasant tasks first. Let us talk of trees but not those that are adorned with lights and decorations, but Crab Apples, called, in Latin, Malus. These are such an asset to any garden and if short of space train one in a fanned way along your fence. Easily done by tying on horizontal canes fastened to your wall or fence so it grows along instead of out. Good choice of fruit coloured pink, orange or red. John Downie is a bright variety but pink Sentinel is likely to stay on your tree all winter. All have pretty blossom in spring, treat yourself or put it on your 'wanted' gift list.

### Activities for a mild, dry day

1. Trees: glistening trunk of a silver birch requires some water and a scrubbing brush to give the shining white.
2. To get the best from hellebores cut to the base the leaves showing blackened foliage
3. Wisterias need to have spurs off the main branches trimmed to buds for good flowering.
4. Check on dahlias you may have dug up, turned upside down with their stems cut off, left to dry in a frost-free place e.g. the shed, Now wrap them in newspaper and put in a cardboard box
5. No frost to give the magical look to your garden's dying foliage? You may wish to sacrifice any future chance of a sprinkling of white albeit attractive, by cutting off, clearing the area and piling on the mulch of home-made compost, bought stuff or spent mushroom compost, then plants are snug and the garden looks cared for.
6. Any bulbs will be vulnerable to squirrels having a snack or the casual dining of a passing muntjac, never mind covering with wire netting, use twigs stuck around them, preferably spiky ones such as rose prunings or holly. And at the mention of this seasonal bush, may all your trees be full of berries!!



## From the Vicarage...

I recently happened upon a discussion amongst some clergy colleagues about Christmas Carols, and particularly whether there were any which might strike a raw nerve when considered alongside the continuing fighting in the Holy Land. The 'little town of Bethlehem' doesn't lie still and peaceful, but finds itself close to one of the worst periods of unrest in that part of the world in recent years. At first sight, it might seem insensitive to sentimentalise such a troubled region, and disregard its suffering by repainting it with the serenity of a Christmas card image.

Whatever your answer to that question, it is worth us remembering that, at the time of Jesus' birth, Bethlehem also found itself surrounded by uncertainty and unrest. The uneasy relationship between the Romans and the Jewish people resulted in various outbreaks of violence, and we have evidence of how insecure those in power felt, from King Herod's reaction to the news of a new king born nearby, to the brutal way in which the Roman authorities treated those who rebelled against them.

If we only think of Christmas as a picturesque family scene, we're missing a very important part of what it is about. What Christians celebrate about Christmas each year is that it is a response – a response to the cries of a troubled world, of troubled people. Which is why it is important to remember both the unrest into which Jesus was born, and the unrest of our own day, and recognise that they are connected.

So when we sing of the 'little town of Bethlehem', about how it lies still and silent in its dreamless sleep, we are telling a story of how God crept, unnoticed at first, except for a few shepherds, and a few star-gazers from a land far away, into our world. We believe that he does so still, and that the first people to see God's presence among us are often the poorest or most marginalised, the ones who are most deeply affected by the world's troubles.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, we remember that the way in which God enters into our world today is through our actions and words. At the end of 'O little town of Bethlehem,' we sing 'Be born in us today.' Keep your eyes open to see where God is born in us today, beyond the stories of human brokenness and suffering, and hear the echoes of the time, those two thousand or so years ago, when a few witnesses gathered in Bethlehem and saw Emmanuel: God with us.

**Rev'd/Fr Alex**

## Sunday Services for December 2023

### Sunday 3 December – Advent Sunday

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield  
 10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Wethersfield  
 3pm Children's Church – Wethersfield  
 4pm Advent Carol Service with Benediction – Little Bardfield

### Sunday 10 December – Second Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford  
 9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield  
 10.30am Communion Service – Finchingfield  
 11am Family Service (Toy Service) – Wethersfield  
 4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

### Sunday 17 December – Third Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield  
 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford  
 10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield  
 10.30am Family Service – Finchingfield

*Please see the list of Carol Services for services in the afternoon and evening.*

### Sunday 24 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield  
 9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford  
 10.30am Morning Prayer with Sunday Café – Cornish Hall End  
 11am Family Communion Service – Wethersfield

***Please see list of Christmas services for services in the afternoon and evening, and for services on Christmas Day.***

*The only services in the week after Christmas are as follows:*

### Tuesday 26 December – St Stephen

10am Holy Communion – Great Bardfield

### Thursday 28 December – The Holy Innocents

10am Holy Communion – Little Bardfield

### Friday 29 December – St Thomas of Canterbury

10am Holy Communion – Shalford

### Sunday 31 December – Sunday after Christmas

10.30am Benefice Communion Service – Cornish Hall End  
 2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed – Boydells Dairy Farm

## Carol Services & Services for Christmas

### Sunday 3 December

4pm Advent Carol Service – Little Bardfield

### Friday 8 December

2.30pm Christingle Service

(led by Finchingfield Primary School & open to all) – Finchingfield

### Saturday 16 December

2.30pm Carol Singing at Blackmore End Village Hall

6.30pm Joint Churches Service of Readings and Carols – Great Bardfield

### Sunday 17 December

4pm Service of Readings and Carols – Cornish Hall End

6pm Service of Readings and Carols – Wethersfield

### Christmas Eve

3pm Christingle Service – Great Bardfield

3pm Nativity Service – Finchingfield

5pm Carols by Candlelight – Shalford

9pm 'Early' Midnight Mass – Little Bardfield

11.30pm Midnight Mass – Wethersfield

### Christmas Day

9am Family Communion Service – Cornish Hall End

9.30am Family Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

11am Family Communion Service – Finchingfield

### New Year's Eve

2.30pm Carols in the Cowshed – Boydells Dairy Farm

*Our churches will also be involved in the lights switch on events in Wethersfield and Shalford (on Saturday 2 December) and Finchingfield (on Saturday 9 December). Please do come along and join in singing some favourite carols!*



## Services for January 2024

### Sunday 7 January – The Feast of the Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Finchingfield

9.30am Parish Communion Service – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

### Sunday 14 January – Second Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Shalford

9.30am Sung Communion Service – Little Bardfield

10.30am Communion Service – Finchingfield

*Please note also the Plough Sunday Service at Thaxted Parish Church at 11am*

4pm Sung Evensong – Shalford

### Sunday 21 January – Third Sunday of Epiphany

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Wethersfield

9.30am Morning Prayer – Shalford

10.30am Family Communion Service – Great Bardfield

10.30am Family Service – Finchingfield

4pm Evensong – Cornish Hall End

### Sunday 28 January – The Feast of Candlemas

8am Holy Communion (traditional language) – Great Bardfield

10.30am Benefice Communion Service with Procession – Finchingfield

4pm Christingle Service – Wethersfield

## Regular Services and Events during the week

**Monday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Finchingfield

**Tuesday** 10am Eucharist – Great Bardfield

(preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.30am)

**Thursday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Wethersfield

10am Prayer Group (1st, 3rd & 5th weeks)

Coffee Morning (2nd & 4th weeks) – Shalford

Coffee Morning (3rd week) – Cornish Hall End

10.30am Eucharist – Little Bardfield

**Friday** 8.45am Morning Prayer – Shalford

**Saturday** 10.30am (3rd weeks) Coffee Morning – Wethersfield

## Nature Notes - Black Heron

Yesterday afternoon on my dog walk down by the lakes

I spotted a very strange sight I could not believe my eyes, There was this strange thing gliding smoothly but quickly over the water very much like a swan or a goose would move but it looked like a heron with its long straight beak, But it was all black and I have never seen a heron move on water like that; they just wade on their long legs in shallow water or fly as do all the egret family of birds. So home to do some research. Out with the books on water fowl and Google, and lo and behold there is a black heron but it lives in Sub-Saharan Africa from Senegal and Sudan to South Africa but found mainly on eastern half of the continent and Madagascar, but it has been seen in Greece and Italy. Have I seen a Black Heron or was it something else? I can't be sure, I wonder if anyone else has seen it. I wasn't able to get a photo due to the fact I was wearing wet weather gear and my phone was under two layers of clothes I remain convinced that is what it was, It may easily have been a black heron after all, we are witnessing strange things possibly due to global warming. We had Wally the walrus doing a sightseeing tour, and killer whales up the Thames so nothing should surprise us. It has been a very interesting exercise



learning something about the Black Heron; one remarkable feature is the fact that it has a unique fishing technique, living in a hot sunny place it stands up to its knees in the water, forms its wings into a circle casting an area of shade on the water. Fish swim into the shade so making easy picking for the long pointed beak, most of the other features of this bird are pretty much the same as the rest of the egret family i.e. nests up in a tree, likes shallow water, diet consists of fish and small crustacean. Well, as interesting as finding out about the black heron was, I am feeling a little bit silly as there have been more sightings on the lake and it was in fact a cormorant! Compare the two pictures it was a dull wet afternoon. Can I be forgiven? Please.

**Mac Beanland**



## From Smokestacks to Haystacks

### *My farming life*

Our regular contributor Mac Beanland (writer of Nature Notes) has recently published a book describing his life as a farmer. A city boy, born and raised in Nottingham, Mac always dreamed of the farming life. In this humorous and fascinating account he shares his journey from running a city small-holding to Frenches Farm at Oxen End. A special launch is being held for Mac's book on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm at Between the Lines Bookshop when Mac will read from and sign copies of his book.

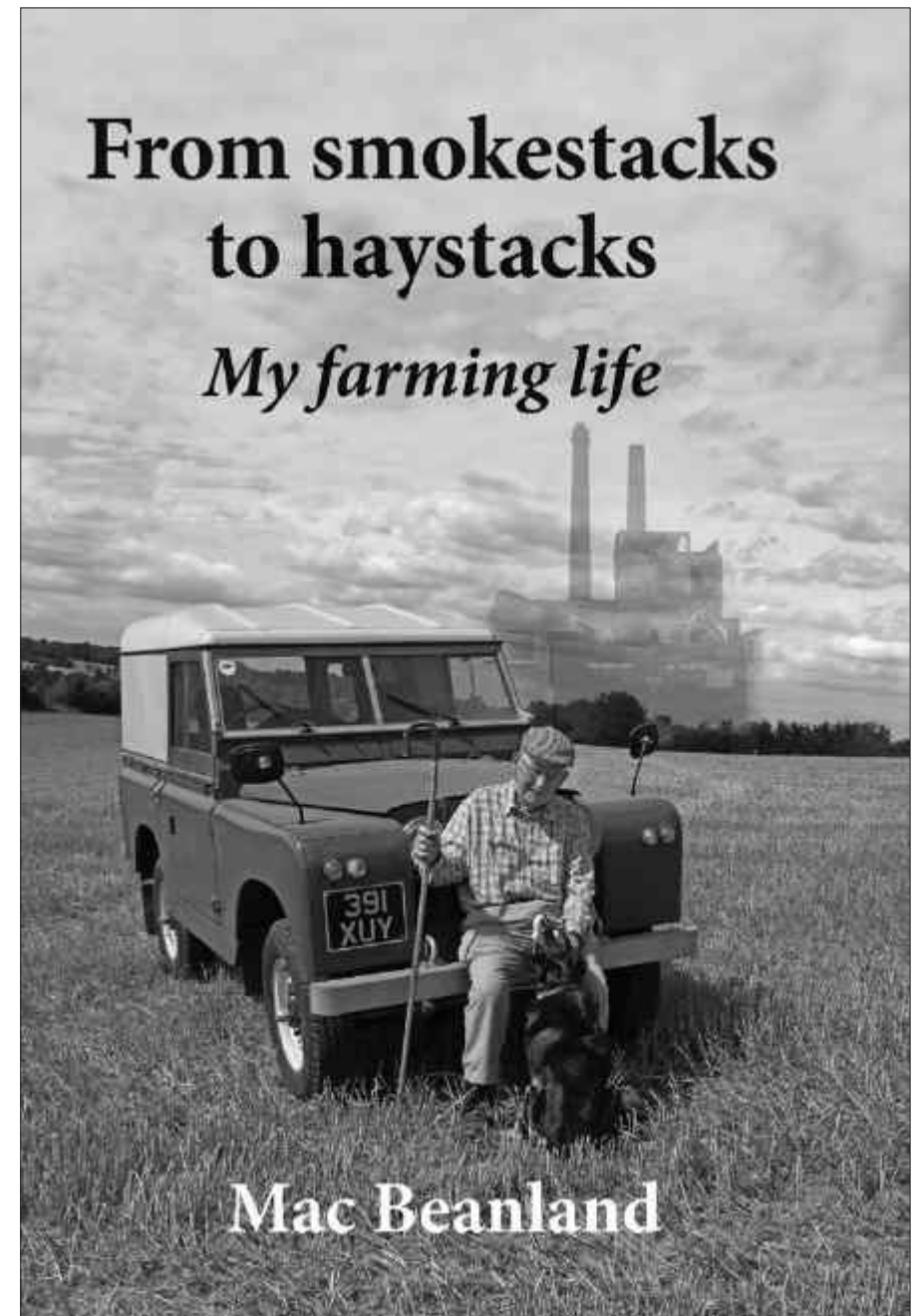
**All are welcome.**

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## Winter stories

Being the festive season, it seemed only right to have another look at some Bardfield Christmas traditions over the years.

The late Rev Norman Clift compiled sketchbooks and notes about the village and these are a rich source of amusing anecdotes. When talking about The Bell he says:



"A clergyman was once imprisoned in The Bell and in 1653 he managed to escape. I was tempted to ask why he should have wanted to escape from such an agreeable place until I realized that this was during Oliver Cromwell's time – when many ale houses were closed and even Christmas dinners were forbidden. The unfortunate clergyman may have been the Rev'd John Mowe, the curate of Great Bardfield, who was brought to trial at Thaxted for bowing to the altar in Bardfield church."

This from the late Elsie James' oral history:

"When the river froze all over as it frequently did in those days, we used to go sliding and men went skating. There was a public grass patch just over the bridge in Bridge End, that's now covered by a garden when new houses were built in later years. As a small child I was taken by my father to a night skating party and a fire was lit on this grass to heat up drinks."

This from the late Peggy Swift's recording:

"One year, I think it was 1926, it was Christmas day and we'd got an aunt and uncle and cousin from Braintree staying with us... we had Christmas, but on Boxing Day morning the road was absolutely full of snow – right up to our windows. Our back door opened outwards so we couldn't open that but we eventually got it open. We had to get a shovel and push the snow like that – it was absolutely thick. And it was so incredible that I can't really describe it. And Dixon's Road - you know, what they call Beslyns Road, the man had to feed the animals and they got a scraper and it was high – right across. He just made a pathway to get to the farm so that they could come out. We were snowed up for ages. ... It took ages and ages for it to thaw out."

**Jenny Rooney, Great Bardfield Historical Society**

## REVIVAL OF A GARDEN AND PLANT COLLECTIONS BY LUCY SKELLORN

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**T**wo brothers born in north Wales in the 16th century have significant links with The Hundred Parishes. Thomas and Hugh Myddelton were younger sons of Richard, governor of Denbigh Castle. Both came to London to seek their fortune.

Thomas Myddelton was born in 1550, the fourth son. He did indeed make his fortune in trade and became Lord Mayor of London in 1613.

In 1615, Thomas bought the manor of Stansted Mountfitchet as his country seat and began the erection of a new Stansted Hall. He died in 1631 and was buried at St Mary's Church. His funeral was lavish; the family even paid for the mourners to be suitably dressed. There is a fine memorial inside the church with a life-size effigy under a decorated arch.

Hugh Myddelton was born in 1560, the sixth son. In London, he was apprenticed to a goldsmith and later became Royal Jeweller to King James I.

Hugh became a self-taught engineer. He was largely responsible for construction of The New River which ran for some 20 miles, taking fresh water



*Gt Amwell - New River*



*Great Amwell - Hugh Middelton memorial*

from springs near Great Amwell into London. He helped fund the project and also secured financial help from the king.



*Stansted Mountfitchet - St Mary's - Thomas Middelton memorial*

The New River was opened in 1613, following the land contours so that gravity carried the water all the way to the Clerkenwell area of London. In 1620 a half mile extension was dug to supplement the supply by taking water from the nearby River Lea. After 400 years, the man-made New River still takes fresh water to the citizens of London; it is now operated by Thames Water.

Hugh Myddelton died in London in 1631. A memorial stone was erected on an island in the river at Great Amwell and various roads and properties along the route bear his name.

**Ken McDonald**  
**Secretary**



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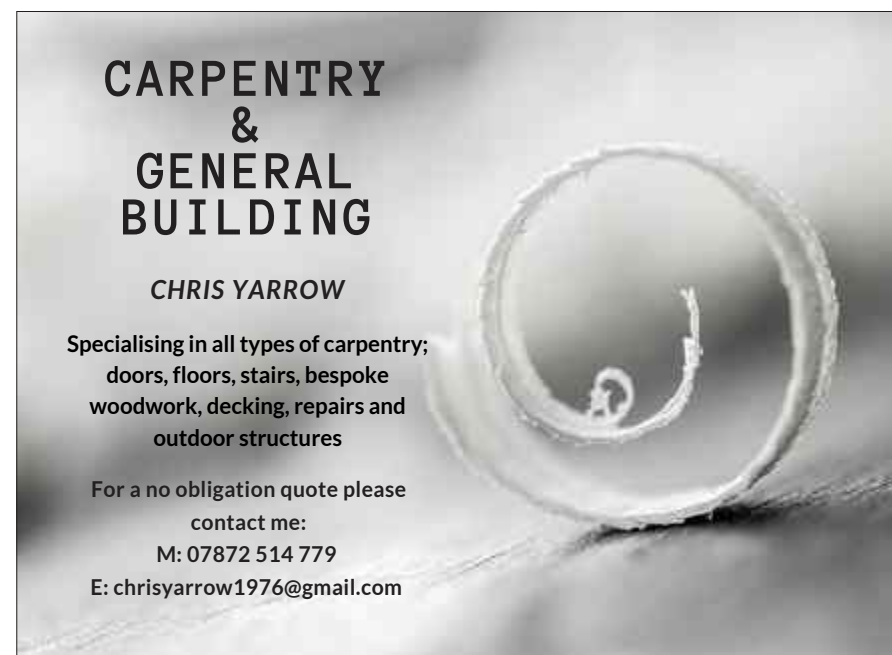
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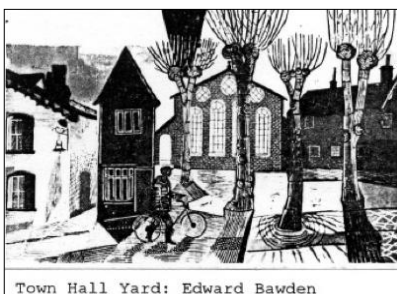
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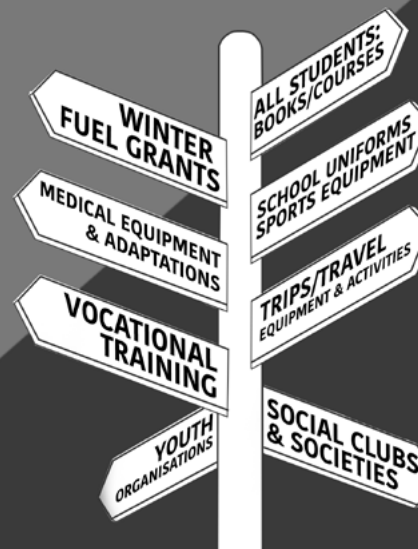
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Mick Gell (01371 810113), Nick Holland (07795 280647)  
Annika Woodcock (07900 491636)  
Rev Alex Shannon (01371 810309)

Or email [GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com](mailto:GreatBardfieldCharities@gmail.com)

# TOWN HALL DIARY

## December 2023

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Panto	1.00pm
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & stability class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Cinema Club	8.00pm
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Carols	7.00pm
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & stability class	10.45am
	Tuesday Club	2.00pm
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council meeting	7.00pm
	Badminton	7.00pm
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Private Function	1.00pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
<b>January 2024</b>		
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & stability class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Council Meeting	7.00 pm
	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Horticultural Society Meeting.	5.00pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & stability class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & stability class	10.45am
	Choir	8.00pm
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Bardfield Players	7.00pm
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Private Function	10.00am
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Dance fit class	9.30am
	Mobility & stability class	10.45am
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Badminton	7.00pm

## Great Bardfield Parish

### Clerk to the Parish Council

#### Councillors

clerk@greatbardfield-pc.gov.uk 810111  
 Carolynne Ruffle (Chair) 810986  
 Paul Kennedy 810540  
 Darren Hockley 810836  
 Peter Walmsley 07843 498243  
 Lynsi Hayward-Smith 07515 398402  
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## Little Bardfield Parish

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#### Clerk to the Parish Council

LittleBardfieldParishClerk@gmail.com  
 Andrew Davies davies@farmline.com  
 Kate Rixon 01371 404 321

### Uttlesford District Council

#### Councillor

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#### Bardfield Carpet Bowls Club

#### Bardfield Charities

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cllrtayler@uttlesford.gov.uk

Pat Moore 07767 413055

Clifford Richardson 810782

Nick Holland 07795 280647

Ian Ruffle 810986

Mark Wells 810447

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Kathy King 811580

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